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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 11 TOKYO 001793

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [ECON](#) [ELAB](#) [JA](#)

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3) Prime Minister's Official Residence (Kantei)

Prime Minister's schedule, August 5

NIKKEI (Page 2) (Full)
August 6, 2009

07:46

Took a walk near official residence

09:54

Met Chief Cabinet Secretary Takeo Kawamura, Health Minister Yoichi Masuzoe, and Justice Minister Eisuke Mori at official residence

11:06

Departed Haneda Airport on ANA flight 813

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12:10

Arrived at Yonego Airport

12:38

Stump speech in front of JR Yonego station

13:25

Left Yonego station on Yakumo-18 train

15:41

Arrived at JR Okayama station

15:45

Speech at Hotel Granvia, Okayama

16:54

Speech at gymnasium in Mitsu Sports Park

18:20

Speech at Kasaoka Civic Hall in Kasaoka City

19:24

Stump speech in front of JR Fukuyama station in Fukuyama City, Hiroshima Prefecture

20:03

Left Fukuyama station on Hikari-583 train

20:28

Arrived at JR Hiroshima station

20:48

Met Health Minister Masuzoe at Grand Prince Hotel Hiroshima; stayed overnight

4) Confirmation of U.S. Ambassador to Japan Roos: Possibility of Japan-U.S. cooperation on environment policy

MAINICHI (Page 7) (Full)
August 6, 2009

Yoso Furumoto, Washington; Hironori Yoshitomi, Los Angeles

U.S. President Barack Obama's appointment of lawyer John Roos, 54, as the next ambassador to Japan was confirmed by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on August 4. The appointment is now expected to be approved officially by the full Senate. There have been reports that Roos's appointment is a reward for raising substantial political funds during the presidential election campaign, but his political ideology and policies are similar to President Obama, and expectations are now being voiced on new possibilities of Japan-U.S. cooperation in clean energy, an area he is knowledgeable about.

Volunteered for the job

"Ever since I served as an intern in the White House during law school, I have dreamed of one day re-entering public service and giving something back to my country." (Roos, at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on July 23)

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According to Daniel Okimoto, professor emeritus at Stanford University who is close to Roos, the Obama administration's transition team sounded out Roos on various posts. Roos made his choice: "My first preference is ambassador to Japan. I think it is an important and challenging job."

Roos's close associates think that appointing the president's personal friend to be the ambassador in a certain country is a sign of the importance attached to that country.

President Obama has pointed out that "Japan and the U.S. both have the most advanced technology" in the area of clean energy, and "cooperation between the two countries will produce a synergy effect." Okimoto noted that since Roos has also emphasized his experience in developing companies involved with clean energy at the hearing, it is now widely believed that one reason for his appointment is bilateral cooperation in this field.

Coordinator-type

"(As CEO,) I have learned the value of listening carefully, keeping an open mind, and consulting with the experts before making major decisions." (Roos at July 23 Senate committee hearing)

Listening humbly to other people's opinion is probably something Roos has in common with the President.

Roos has worked for many years in the Silicon Valley in California, where there is a concentration of IT companies. He is the chief executive officer (CEO) of a law firm which counts among its clients Google and Apple Computer. However, the image derived from his own words and those of people around him is that he is a "coordinator-type leader."

Former Senator Bill Bradley, who has known Roos for nearly 30 years, introduced him at the Senate hearing as a typical example of "a person people do not even realize is a leader" and praised him for "having the extraordinary ability of finding a meeting point among conflicting parties."

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON'S TRIP TO PYONGYANG

5) Clinton calls for N. Korea to resolve abduction issue

NIKKEI (Page 1) (Abridged)
August 6, 2009

Former U.S. President Clinton recently visited North Korea, where he met with that country's leader Kim Jong Il and negotiated for the release of two detained U.S. female reporters. On that occasion, Clinton asked Kim for an all-out solution to the issue of Japanese and South Korean nationals abducted to North Korea, a high-ranking official of the Obama administration told the Nihon Keizai Shimbun in a telephone interview yesterday. The official said the United States would maintain the framework of the Six-Party talks in its bilateral relations with North Korea and would try for the time being to reach an agreement to hold five-party talks among the six-party members excluding North Korea. The official also said the United States would not hold comprehensive bilateral talks with North Korea at once.

6) LDP fears new developments behind Japan's back; DPJ set to

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monitor situation

The surprise visit to North Korea by former U.S. President Bill Clinton has brought about the possibility that the North Korean issue, including its nuclear development, will enter a new phase. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) are now vying with each other to win the reins of government in the upcoming House of Representatives election. Their abilities to deal with the new situation will be tested.

Teaming up with the government, the LDP has taken a hard-line stance toward North Korea. The LDP manifesto clearly stipulates that (Japan) will not extend economic assistance to North Korea unless there is progress on the abduction issue. In a stump speech in Tottori yesterday, Prime Minister Taro Aso renewed his criticism (of North Korea) by describing the abduction issue as state-sponsored crime.

The LDP is highly alarmed at the possibility that U.S.-DPRK talks will take place following the former U.S. President's visit to Pyongyang and the North Korean issue will move forward behind Japan's back. Foreign Affairs Research Commission Chairman Taku Yamasaki indicated that Japan might be pressed to provide massive assistance in return for progress on the nuclear issue.

The DPJ, too, intends to adopt a severe policy toward the North. The DPJ policy platform stipulates that (a DPJ administration) will take resolute measures to make North Korea abandon its weapons of mass destruction.

DPJ Secretary General Katsuya Okada yesterday evaluated Clinton's visit to North Korea positively, saying, "There is a possibility that it will prompt (North Korea) to come to the negotiating table." At the same time, views in the party are split on foreign and security policies. As such, many LDP lawmakers are poised to simply monitor the situation carefully.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN

7) DPJ's Hatoyama to announce active involvement in nuclear non-proliferation in Hiroshima today

TOKYO SHIMBUN (Page 2) (Full)
August 6, 2009

Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) President Yukio Hatoyama will announce a policy of active involvement in reinforcing the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) regime after attending the peace memorial ceremony in Hiroshima on August 6. He will reiterate that North Korea's possession of nuclear arms is absolutely unacceptable and emphasize the party's pledge to "take the lead in eliminating nuclear weapons" in its manifesto. The above was revealed by a DPJ source on August 5.

U.S. President Barack Obama has announced that a "nuclear security summit" in Washington will be held in March 2010 to give support to maintaining the NPT regime ahead of the UN NPT Review Conference in May. Hatoyama reckons that active support for the NPT will also

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contribute to strengthening the Japan-U.S. relationship. He will announce the promotion of technical cooperation for the peaceful use of nuclear energy and other policies.

Obama mentioned the "moral responsibility" of the only country that has used a nuclear weapon in his speech in Prague in April calling for a "world without nuclear weapons." In response to this, Hatoyama will also announce that as the "only atomic-bombed country," Japan will cooperation with the United States to play a leading role in the international community's efforts toward the elimination of nuclear arms. The DPJ is contemplating a plan for Hatoyama to attend the NPT Review Conference as the first Japanese prime minister to do so if he becomes the prime minister.

8) Aso criticizes DPJ's decision to revise pledge for a Japan-U.S.FTA

TOKYO SHIMBUN (Page 2) (Full)
August 6, 2009

In a campaign speech in Yonago, Tottori Prefecture, yesterday, Prime Minister Taro Aso criticized the Democratic Party of Japan's (DPJ) decision to revise its pledge to conclude a free trade agreement (FTA) with the U.S. The main opposition party inserted the pledge in its policy platform for the upcoming House of Representatives election. Aso said:

"The manifest clearly noted, 'The party will liberalize trade and conclude an FTA.' ... Agriculture is the basis of our nation. It is wrong to consider that low-priced food, even if it is somewhat harmful, is welcome. In the fear that we might be pressed to buy products contaminated by agrichemicals, we have stressed the need to raise the nation's food self-sufficiency rate."

Meanwhile, DPJ President Yukio Hatoyama yesterday tried to seek public support for a change of government and divert the prime minister's attack on the DPJ by underscoring its conservative policy imprint. He remarked in a campaign speech in Sakai City, Fukui Prefecture:

"This is said to be an area with strong support basis for conservatism, but we are no longer in an age of selecting conservatism or reform. The key point is which party can carry out politics that live up to public expectations."

9) Forum sponsors Aso-Hatoyama debate for Aug. 12

TOKYO SHIMBUN (Page 2) (Full)
August 6, 2009

The "21st century ad hoc commission to build a new Japan," composed of knowledgeable persons, announced yesterday that Prime Minister Taro Aso, the president of the Liberal Democratic Party, and Democratic Party of Japan President Yukio Hatoyama will hold a party-heads debate at a Tokyo hotel on the afternoon of Aug. 12.

The exchange will last for an hour and a half from 4:00 p.m. The two party leaders will deliver speeches and then hold a one-on-one debate in the form of asking questions and relying to the other side's questions.

10) Watanabe to launch new party possibly on Aug. 8; Dozen or so

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candidates to be endorsed

YOMIURI (Page 4) (Abridged)
August 6, 2009

Former administrative reform minister Yoshimi Watanabe formally announced a plan yesterday to launch a new party called Minna to To (party for everyone) as early as Aug. 8. The envisaged new party will aim for three objectives -- breakaway from bureaucratic-controlled policymaking, regional autonomy, and livelihood-oriented policies - to bring about a change of government and political realignment.

Asked by reporters about the significance of the new party in the city of Kitakata in Fukushima Prefecture yesterday, Watanabe said: "Our objective is a change of administration, which is the same as the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), but we are aiming at political realignment beyond that. We are not going to be a force supplementing the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). The LDP relies heavily on bureaucrats and the DPJ on labor unions. We will be a true reform force."

According to a person concerned, the new party will be composed of Watanabe, an independent of the Tochigi 3rd constituency; Kenji Eda of the Kanagawa 8th district, Koichi Yamauchi, a former LDP lawmaker of the Kanagawa 9th district; and Motoko Hirotsu, also a former LDP

member of the proportional representative Kyushu bloc. Keiichiro Asao, a House of Councillors lawmaker who has been expelled from the DPJ, is also expected to join the new party to run for the Lower House Kanagawa 4th constituency. A Watanabe aide said: "We will be able to meet the requirements for a political party stipulated in the Public Offices Election Law. We are going to officially endorse a dozen or so individuals, including former lawmakers and first-time candidates, for the upcoming Lower House election." Watanabe has suggested cooperation with the DPJ as well.

DEFENSE AND SECURITY ISSUES

11) Futenma relocation: DPJ to review realignment plan, LDP sees no prospects for coordination with Okinawa

YOMIURI (Page 3) (Full)
August 6, 2009

A new government, which will come into office after the upcoming general election for the now-dissolved House of Representatives, will need to reach an immediate resolution of the issue of relocating the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station in Okinawa Prefecture. Japan and the United States have agreed to complete the planned relocation of Futenma airfield by 2014 in the process of realigning U.S. forces in Japan.

The Democratic Party of Japan will set forth its stance of reviewing the realignment plan, claiming that it is questionable to go ahead with Futenma relocation as currently planned. "If everyone agrees, we will opt for relocation outside Okinawa Prefecture," DPJ President Hatoyama said in his address to local residents in Okinawa on July 19.

The United States is strongly concerned about such remarks from DPJ leaders since the U.S. government preconditions Futenma relocation to Nago City on the realignment of U.S. forces in Japan, including a

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plan to move Okinawa-based U.S. Marines to Guam.

Meanwhile, the Liberal Democratic Party says the government will steadily implement the U.S. force realignment. For the relocation of Futenma airfield, however, the government needs Okinawa Prefecture's authorization for reclamation. In this regard, Okinawa Prefecture preconditions its authorization on the Futenma replacement facility's offshore move. The LDP government sees no prospects for coordination with the U.S. government and the Okinawa prefectural government.

12) Komeito wants U.S. force realignment steadily implemented: manifesto

YOMIURI (Page 2) (Abridged)
August 6, 2009

The New Komeito, in its manifesto, upholds "proactive international pacifism" in its manifesto as an ideal of its foreign policy. The party will try to develop Japan's foreign relations with an eye on reality. Its manifesto specifies its intention to maintain and develop favorable relations with the United States and "firmly maintain" the Japan-U.S. alliance. Along with this, it proposes pushing ahead with U.S. force realignment in a steady way. At the same time, it also advocates laying down ballistic missile defense shields in a steady way.

The Japanese Communist Party's manifesto develops the party's previous positions, such as abrogating the Japan-U.S. alliance, establishing an equal-footing relationship with the United States, and removing U.S. military bases in Japan. It also proposes withdrawing the Maritime Self-Defense Force from its ongoing refueling mission in the Indian Ocean. Meanwhile, the JCP manifesto gives high marks to the U.S. President's Prague speech for its advocacy of nuclear elimination, saying it has "historic significance."

The Social Democratic Party, in its manifesto, does not especially

touch on the Japan-U.S. alliance. Concerning the planned realignment of U.S. forces in Japan, however, the SDP manifesto insists that the intergovernmental agreement between the two countries should be "rediscussed." It also refers to the issue of relocating the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station, which is symbolic of the U.S. force realignment. In this regard, the SDP manifesto opposes Futenma airfield's closure and reversion, and also opposes its replacement facility's construction in Nago, Okinawa Prefecture. In addition, the party's manifesto refers to the planned move of U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam and insists on calling off the so-called "Guam relocation pact" that incorporates Japan's spending relevant to the Guam relocation.

13) JINF evaluates political parties' manifestos on right to collective self-defense

SANKEI (Page 5) (Full)
August 6, 2009

The Japan Institute for National Fundamentals (JINF), a private-sector think tank headed by Yoshiko Sakurai, held a meeting in Tokyo yesterday to evaluate the foreign and security policies that are specified in each political party's manifesto (campaign pledges) for the upcoming House of Representatives election.

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President Sakurai said, "Both the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the Democratic Party of Japan are offering rosy promises, and we must keep a watchful eye on them." Vice President Tadae Takubo noted, "The LDP has stopped short of touching upon exercising the right to collective self-defense." Planning Committee member Masato Ushio criticized the LDP, saying, "All the more because the party advocates Japan-U.S. relations on an equal footing, I wanted to see it clarify where it stands on the right to collective self-defense."

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

14) DPJ plan to curb greenhouse gas emissions will cost each household additional burden of 360,000 yen: METI estimates

SANKEI (Page 2) (Full)
August 6, 2009

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) at a meeting of the supply-demand subcommittee of its resources and energy research council, an advisory organ reporting to the METI minister, held on August 5, released the estimation of the cost of the government's mid-term goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 15%, compared with the 2005 level, by 2020. It reported that the government plan will cost each household additional 77,000 yen a year. The panel also presented the estimate that the Democratic Party of Japan's (DPJ) goal, which is stricter than that of the government, will lead to a 360,000 yen increase in the burden shared by each household. Behind the comparison of the two goals appears to be METI's desire to single out problems about the DPJ policy. This could likely become a major point of contention in the Lower House election.

Commenting on the 77,000 yen increase in the financial burden, a member representing a consumer organization house said, "This is an awful figure that cannot be accepted by ordinary people."

A breakdown of the increase in the burden shows roughly 40,000 yen due to a decrease in households' disposal income and about 30,000 yen because of an increase in utility expenses as a result of an increased introduction of high-cost recyclable energy, such as solar energy generation.

The panel report notes that in achieving the government goal, the nation as a whole will need a total of 49 trillion yen for the implementation of major policies alone, such as 12 trillion yen for the dissemination of green vehicles and 8 trillion yen for an expanded introduction of solar power generation. The estimation of the cost of the DPJ policies is even more shocking.

The DPJ aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent in

comparison with the 1990 level or 30 percent, compared with the 2005 level, which is double the government's goal. A breakdown of the increase to be shouldered by household budgets shows a 220,000 yen drop in disposal income and a 140,000 yen increase in utility expenses. The report also pointed out that the DPJ proposal would also require cuts in industrial output through constrained industrial activities.

METI Minister Nikai criticized the DPJ proposal as an impossible dream. According to a senior METI official, aides to Nikai urged that the comparison between the government goal and the DPJ goal should be revealed.

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DPJ Secretary General Katsuya Okada at a meeting with the Japan Business Federation (Nippon Keidanren) on the 4th said, "Figures could change, depending on preconditions." The DPJ is bound to face the test of explaining the increase in the burden shared by households in the run-up to the Lower House election.

15) DPJ plans to hold extraordinary Diet session and enact bill to set up national strategy bureau tasked with budget compilation

YOMIURI (Page 1) (Full)
August 6, 2009

The Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) decided yesterday that if the party seized the reins of government in the upcoming House of Representatives election, the party would convene an extraordinary Diet session in October and try to enact a bill to set up a national strategy bureau under the prime minister in accordance with the pledge in its policy platform. The main opposition party also intends to submit a supplementary budget bill that would reduce the already adopted budget for fiscal 2009 by approximately 4 trillion yen. With the aim of compiling an extra budget bill and a budget bill for fiscal 2010 under the lead of politicians, the DPJ is willing to temporarily set up a "national strategy office" and other necessary bodies by government ordinances until the bill for the national strategy bureau is enacted.

The DPJ plans to assign several politicians to the new bureau and have the party's Policy Research Council chairman head the bureau as well so that policy decisions can be centralized at the cabinet. The party is also looking into preparing a package bill for systemic reform related to policymaking, such as the creation of an administrative reform council to eliminate waste spending.

The DPJ intends to also submit in the extraordinary session a bill to eradicate civil servants' amakudari (golden parachuting) practices, as well as related bills to secure the necessary funds for prefectural government to prepare for introducing in fiscal 2010 the envisioned measures to offer a monthly child-raising allowance and eliminate public high school tuition fees.

16) Government achieves goal of employing women for 30% of career administrative jobs in FY09

TOKYO SHIMBUN (Page 3) (Full)
August 6, 2009

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications and the National Personnel Authority announced on August 5 that the ratio of women among applicants who successfully passed the class-one civil service examination and who took up administrative jobs at the national government ministries and agencies in FY09, or the so-called "career bureaucrats, increased by 6.4 percent points over FY08 to 30.6 percent. This is the first time for the ratio to go above 30 percent.

The government has achieved the goal set by a cabinet resolution in December 2005 to raise the ratio of women among newly hired career administrative officials to around 30 percent by FY1020.

A total of 304 applicants have been hired for career administrative jobs in FY09, and 93 of them are women. By ministry or agency, the

National Personnel Authority has the highest ratio of women (75 percent), followed by the Cabinet Office (54.5 percent) and the Environment Ministry (42.9 percent). On the other hand, the lowest ratios were marked by the Fair Trade Commission (14.3 percent) and the Board of Audit of Japan (20.0 percent).

The ratio of women among all successful applicants who passed the class-one civil service examination, including for technical jobs, also increased by 4.1 percent points over FY08 to a record 25.8 percent.

On the other hand, the ratio of women among officials with the division chief rank or above in the ministries was 2.0 percent (plus 0.1 point from previous year), and 1.1 percent (same as previous year) for senior officials with the rank of councilor or above as of January 2008. These ratios are still low. The government's goal to raise the ratio of women in division chief or above positions to 5 percent by the end of FY2010 appears to be difficult to meet.

ZUMWALT